comes to the knowledge of AICTE, it serves notices, warning such institutes to get formal approval as per the AICTE Act or stop functioning. AICTE has set up Cells for Prevention of Malpractices to curb such violations. Also, in order to protect the public from any unapproved institutions, AICTE releases notices in leading Newspapers in addition to exhibition of details of approved Institutes on its website. Notified policy on fee fixation in private unaided educational institutions imparting higher and technical education including Management Education provides for ensuring avoidance of commercialisation and profit making. As and when reports are received regarding charging of capitation fee or commercialisation of education by institutions, AICTE directs the concerned State Government or the University to conduct independent inquiry, the recommendations of which are considered by AICTE and appropriate directions are issued.

Research Period for Ph.D. Degree

† 2060. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum research period for awarding Ph.D. degree in various Universities affiliated to the University Grants Commission;

(b) whether there_is any provisons to reduce this period; and

(c) if so, the University-wise details thereof particularly with reference to Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Agra and the University of Delhi, Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA) : (a) According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission, the Commission has not prescribed any minimum research period for awarding Ph. D. degree.

(b) and (c) The UGC does not have university-wise information about their provisions relating either to the minimum research period or reduction in this period for awarding Ph.D. degree. Different Universities take decisions in this regard with reference to their respective Acts and Statutes.

Encouraging Students for Studying Science

2061. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) the initiative being taken to attract young students for taking science as career;

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.